

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2026 REGULAR SESSION

Introduced

House Bill 4698

By Delegates Holstein and Mazzocchi

[Introduced January 21, 2026; referred to the

Committee on Education]

1 A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new section
2 designated §18-2-9c, relating to requiring all students enrolled in grades nine through
3 twelve (9-12) to be provided with adoption awareness material upon request.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 2. STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION.

§18-2-9c. Adoption awareness materials.

1 (a) Beginning with the 2026-2027 school year, each public school in the state may make
2 available material on adoption awareness from the West Virginia Department of Human Services
3 to students enrolled in grades nine through 12 (9-12) at the public school and/or with the school
4 counselor. The public school shall require that the adoption awareness material required under
5 this section is provided upon request by any student.

6 (b) The State Board of Education shall develop written standards and information relating
7 to adoption awareness material required by this section.

8 (c) Adoption awareness material required by this section shall include without limitation:
9 (1) The types of adoption available;
10 (2) The difference between adoption through the foster care system and private adoption;
11 (3) Public and private resources and agencies available to assist in the adoption process;
12 (4) Public and private resources available for pregnant mothers and parents enrolled in
13 public school; and
14 (5) A description of child and human development.

15 (d) A public school shall provide any information provided to students under this section
16 that is in written form to the parent, legal guardian, or person standing in loco parentis to a
17 pregnant student who is enrolled in the public school.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to require all students enrolled in grades 9-12 to be provided with adoption awareness material upon request.

Strike-throughs indicate language that would be stricken from a heading or the present law, and underscoring indicates new language that would be added.